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THE INTELLIGENCE WAR

PSYWAR CONVENTION IN HAVANA

By ROBERT MOSS

THIS week President Fidel Castro will play host to a meeting of the presidential committee of the World Peace Council (WPC), a hoary Soviet front organisation that has taken on a remarkable new lease of life in recent Moscow inspired campaigns to promote unilateral disarmament in the West.

Founded in 1948, the WPC has been headquartered in Helsinki since its officials were expelled from France and Austria because of their proven involvement in KGB covert action operations.

The WPC is the hub today of some 120 national "peace councils" including a branch in the United States that has played a leading role in mobilising opposition to the Reagan Administration's policies in Central America.

The WPC's most notable recent "psywar" success was in the campaign against the so-called "neutron bomb" that resulted in President Carter's decision to postpone production and deployment of this enhanced radiation weapon designed to defend against a massed Soviet tank offensive in Central Europe in April 1978.

In the run-up to the Havana conference, the WPC has issued its members with a wide-ranging action programme for 1981, which suggests that the organisation is planning to make a huge investment in money and manpower in a new propaganda and covert action offensive.

The self-styled "World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace" held in Sofia under WPC auspices late last year issued a manifesto that declared that 1981 will be "the year of the decisive offensive of peace forces" and recommended mass demonstrations throughout Nato countries.

The WPC's efforts to promote unilateral disarmament are being expanded this year to include a campaign against current American efforts to develop high-energy lasers and space weapons.

As in the campaign against the neutron bomb, the WPC will seek to enlist the participation of groups that are not identified with the Soviet Union. Stopping space wars—meaning self-denial by the United States—is the theme of the current issue of *It's About Times* (sic), the paper of the California-based Abalone Alliance, which has organised mass rallies against nuclear power plants.

On the broader front, the WPC is planning to organise a whole calendar of mass solidarity action in favour of unilateral disarmament in the West in the course of this year.

September 1 has been designated as a "Day of Peace" and the WPC will organise rallies and meetings to coincide with United Nations disarmament week (Oct. 24-31).

The WPC also plans to intensify its propaganda against Western companies. The week of Nov. 16-23 has been designated as an action week in the struggle against the damaging activities of multinational corporations.

Other favoured themes for the WPC this year include: support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Gaddafi regime in Libya; an intensified "solidarity campaign" on behalf of the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman; a guerrilla group that recently threatened to mount a new offensive if the British presence in the Sultanate is increased; lobbying in support of the Salvadoran guerrillas; and backing for migrant and immigrant workers against racism in the United States, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and other West

Soviet view of trade unionism

AGAINST the backdrop of the workers' revolt in Poland, the official organ of the Soviet trade union federation, *Trud*, has published a singularly revealing editorial that defines the role of unions in a "socialist" society and would merit the attention of union leaders in Britain and other Western countries who have continued to promote a dialogue with their Russian counterparts.

According to *Trud*, "The trade unions' duty is to direct the labour collectives' initiative towards accelerating the rate of growth of productivity and the volume of production and towards making better use of capital; to strengthen labour discipline; and to cultivate a thrifty attitude towards the national wealth."

Trud goes on to quote with approval a statement made by President Brezhnev at the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress: "The Party regards the trade unions as its reliable buttress among the masses."

Spy films and the KGB

SINCE James Bond stopped fighting SMERSH, it has been rare to find a KGB villain in an espionage film. Most commonly, the "enemy" is found to be a multinational corporation, an anonymous right-wing dictatorship, or the CIA.

At least five major films in the past few years have pitted their heroes against the supposedly sinister forces of the CIA. The most recent (and the best) is "Hopscotch," a comedy starring Walter Matthau and Glenda Jackson, in which the CIA is depicted as a collection of bungling incompetents.

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